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EXAMINER	
NGUYEN, MAIKHANH	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2176	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/693,330	HALUPTZOK ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Maikhanh Nguyen	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *29 October 2008*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-14,16 and 18-29* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-14,16 and 18-29* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *09/09/08*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the RCE filed 10/29/2008.

Claims 1-14, 16 and 18-29 are currently pending. Claims 1-14 and 16 have been amended. Claims 15 and 17 have been cancelled. Claim 29 has been added. Claims 1 and 16 are independent claims.

Request Continuation for Examination

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed 10/29/2008 has been entered.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 1-11 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Independent claim 1:

- the phrase *"first interface"(line 10)* should read *"a first application programming interface"; and*
- the phrase *"a second interface"* (line 19) should read *"a second application programming interface"*.

Dependent claims 2-4, 6, and 7: The phrase "*the first interface*" (line 2) should read "*the first application programming interface*".

Dependent claims 8-11: The phrase "*the second interface*" (line 2) should read "*the second application programming interface*".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a

person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1- 16 and 18-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Andrew** (US 2003/0074647, filed 10/12/2001) in view of **Reynar** (EP1091303A2, Date of Publication: 11/04/2001).

As to claim 1:

Andrew teaches a computer-readable storage medium usable in a computer system for providing context information to an input method for enabling advanced input methods to achieve a higher accuracy recognition rate for input to application fields by providing an architecture that supports applications or forms to specify what type of text of text input they are expecting in their text fields *[See the Abstract and ¶ 0006]*, the computer-readable storage medium including computer-executable instructions, including:

- an input mechanism for inputting text into plurality of text fields for an application *[See ¶ ¶ 0006, 0007, 0026 and 0027: a software input panel of a software input method based on the state of an application, e.g., a state corresponding to the currently focused field*

in which data is to be entered], wherein each of the plurality of text fields are configured to receive a sequence of text characters *[See ¶ 0006: strings of characters or other symbols, such as those most likely to be needed by a user when entering data. For example, when editing in a browser's address field, the user's most-recently accessed Internet and/or Intranet websites may appear on displayed keys for easy selection, along with strings such as "http:/" "www." and/or ".com" that are frequently needed];*

- a context component having an first interface invocable by executable software code for setting first and second input scopes for respective first and second text fields of the plurality of text fields for the application *[See 0027: the graphical windowing environment 200 may provide such user input to an application program 202 (FIG. 2) that includes a window having current input focus, wherein the user input is typically sent to the application window in the form of one or more keyboard character events. Note that a number of applications 200 may be executable by the computer system, however one application that is currently running is said to have input focus, and receive the input, such as via an input field therein, which is typically configured as a separate input window. Further, note that "application program" is intended to mean any executable software code]*, wherein the first and second input scopes are different input scopes and chosen from,

among other things, a list of input scopes *[See ¶ 0029: a displayable list of available input methods];*

- a recognizer operably coupled to the context component and input mechanism for invoking a second interface of the context component for receiving and applying the first and second input scopes for the respective first and second text fields *[See ¶ ¶ 0031- 0033: The application 202 can communicate information to the software input method 206, such as via an API call. In turn the IInputMethod interface 208 is implemented by the selected software input method 206 for communicating with the selected software input method 206 … HRESULT ReceiveSipInfo ([in] SIPINFO *psi)],* such that sequences of text characters are entered into each of the first and second input fields (See ¶ *0040)*, the sequence of text characters are compared with text within the respective first and second input scopes set in order to determine what text input is expected by the application for the respective first and second text input fields *[See ¶ 0008: the software input method manager communicates with a state determination mechanism that is external to the application, yet can determine the state of the application, such as its currently focused field … e.g., via the field's window class and other available data), such that the software input method manager can select a suitable input method … determine that a field of the application is directed to*

receiving an Internet or Intranet address, and can thus communicate state information corresponding to a field identifier to the software input method manager. The software input method manager can then select an appropriate input method for that field].

Andrew, however, does not specifically teach "*an input scope is a subset of a language used to define what one or more words, numbers, or punctuations can be written and in what order they are allowed to be written to form a sequence of text characters in the text input fields.*"

Reynar teaches an input scope is a subset of a language used to define what one or more words, numbers, or punctuations can be written and in what order they are allowed to be written to form a sequence of text characters in the text input fields *[See ¶ 0014-0018: an input source for a text component is stochastic … a text component can be a subset of the text selection that the user enter ... by reevaluating the interim list of alternatives based on natural principles applied by the natural language model to the text selection as a whole].*

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Andrew with Reynar because it would have provided the enhanced capability for automatically selecting a software input method and/or adjusting the keys displayed on a software input

panel of a software input method based on the state of an application, e.g., a state corresponding to the currently focused field in which data is to be entered.

As to claim 2:

Andrew teaches a parameter for passing a list of words *[See ¶ ¶ 0034 and 0037: the selected software input method 206 as a parameter accompanying this Select( ) method call, and the input method normally creates a child window of this input panel 402. The selected software input method 206 is also provided with a pointer to a value, which is set to nonzero by the selected software input method 206 if the method call is successful or zero if not successful].*

As to claim 3:

Andrew teaches a parameter for passing a list of phrases scopes *[See ¶ ¶ 0034 and 0037].*

As to claim 4:

Andrew teaches a parameter for passing a common input scope scopes *[See ¶ ¶ 0034 and 0037].*

As to claim 5:

Andrew teaches the common input scope comprises a defined format with an associated fixed list of characters *[See ¶ ¶ 0032 and 0033: IInputMethod interface … HRESULT GetImData ([in] DWORD dwSize, [out] LPVOID pvImData); HRESULT SetImData ([in] DWORD dwSize, [in] LPVOID pvImData].*

As to claim 6:

Andrew teaches a parameter for passing a regular expression *[See ¶ ¶ 0034 and 0037].*

As to claim 7:

Andrew teaches a parameter for passing a set of input scopes *[See ¶ ¶ 0034 and 0037].*

As to claim 8:

Andrew teaches a method invoked for obtaining a set of input scopes *[See ¶ ¶ 0034 and 0037].*

As to claim 9:

Andrew teaches a method invoked for obtaining a list of phrases *[See ¶ ¶ 0029, 0034, 0037, and 0044].*

As to claim 10:

Andrew teaches a method invoked for obtaining a list of words *[See ¶ ¶ 0029, 0034, 0037, and 0044].*

As to claim 11:

Andrew teaches a method invoked for obtaining a regular expression *[See ¶ ¶ 0032- 0034].*

As to claim 12:

Andrew teaches recognizer comprises a recognizer for speech *[See ¶ 0055: recognition … speech].*

As to claim 13:

Andrew teaches recognizer comprises a recognizer for handwriting *[See ¶¶ 0029 and 0055: handwriting recognition].*

As to claim 14:

The combination of Andrew with Reynar teaches recognizer comprises a recognizer for an input method editor *[See* Reynar*; ¶¶ 0046 -0048, 0052, 0053, 0054, and 0056-0058: an input method editor (IME) 250].*

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Andrew with Reynar because it would have provided the enhanced capability for automatically selecting a software input method and/or adjusting the keys displayed on a software input panel of a software input method based on the state of an application, e.g., a state corresponding to the currently focused field in which data is to be entered.

As to claims 16, 18 -23, 24, 25, and 27:

Refer to the rejection of Claims 2-8, 10, 9 and 11, respectively. Claims 16, 18 -23, 24, 25, and 27 are the same as Claims 2-8, 10, 9 and 11, except Claims 16, 18 -23, 24, 25, and 27 are method Claims and Claims 2-8, 10, 9 and 11 are computer-readable storage medium Claims.

As to claim 26:

Andrew teaches invoking the second application program interface for an input scope of set for text field of the application comprises obtaining a common input scope *[See ¶¶ 0031-0033].*

As to claim 28:

Andrew teaches a computer-readable storage medium have computer executable instructions *[See Claim 13: A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions].*

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 29 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, subject to a final search.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14, 16 and 18-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record, listed on PTO 892 provided to Applicant is considered to have relevancy to the claimed invention. Applicant should review each identified reference carefully before responding to this office action to properly advance the case in light of the prior art.

Contact information

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maikhanh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4093. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00am – 5:30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached at (571) 272-4137.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Examiner, Art Unit 2176

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